

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Klement Gottwald Weapons and Ammunition Factory in Povazska Bystrica	DATE DISTR.	12 May 1955
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	3
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	25X1

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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1. The Klement Gottwald weapons and ammunition factory in Povazska Bystrica (N 49-07, E 18-27)<sup>1</sup> is one of the major factories of its kind in Czechoslovakia. Since 1949 it has been producing armaments under the direction of the Ministry of National Defense, with military advisers and supervisors. It is located on the northeast side of Povazska Bystrica, approximately 1,500 meters west of the village of Orlove, in the Vah River valley. The Zakopa Mountains rise just west of the factory to a height of 540 meters above sea level.
2. The Povazska Bystrica Airport lies between the southern slopes of Mt. Javornik and the Vah River, about 3,000 meters from the factory. Approximately 6,000 persons work here, 35 percent of them women and 45 percent skilled workers and white-collar employees. There are three shifts; the morning shift employs 50 percent of the force; the other 50 percent is evenly split between the afternoon and night shifts. The director is Vladimir Cernoch, a Czech member of the Party. The factory board consists of 20 members, headed by Antonin Stuchlik, a fanatical Communist. The trade union and political organizations inside the factory are: cadres unit of the Slovak Communist Party; Czechoslovak Youth Association (CSM); Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Association (CSSP); and the Stakhanovites' and Shock Workers' Association. 25X1
3. The factory militia has 350 men, of whom 70 are officials. The militia is subordinate to the factory security officers; it usually practises every two weeks. The factory guard has 60 men who are in uniform and wear the emblem of the factory. By daylight they are armed with pistols, and at night with submachine guns or automatic rifles. This unit serves exclusively for guard duty.

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4. The factory has the following departments: Administration and personnel, security, factory board, projects and plans, military unit and military board, supervision, and inspection of weapons. The factory employs the following automotive vehicles: six 5-ton trucks, 25 buses, 4 Skoda jeeps, 9 motorcycles, and an undetermined number of prime movers.
5. The factory produces the following items:
  - CZ repeating rifles with 10 clips; 1,200 per week on one assembly.
  - P. 18 carbine of 7.92 mm. caliber; 2,200 weekly on one assembly.
  - 48 A and 48 B submachine guns; 300 in 24 hours.
  - CO3 CZ submachine gun; 90 units in 24 hours.
  - CZ 26 light machine gun; 90 units in 24 hours, complete with spare barrel.
  - German-type 41 machine gun; 45 units in 24 hours.
  - CZ 37 heavy machine gun; 35 units in 24 hours.
  - German-type AA machine gun, 37-mm. caliber; six units in 24 hours.
  - 140-mm. A mortar; 1950 model on rubber-tired wheels; four in 24 hours.
  - 120 mm. B mortar, CZ type, on rubber-tired wheels; towed; six units in 24 hours.
  - Czech-type 82 mm. mortar, infantry, towed; nine in 24 hours.
  - Limbers for 76 mm. guns, to be furnished by the Skoda weapons factory in Dubnica nad Vahom (N 48-58, E 18-11); 14 units a week.
  - Antitank weapons of the assembly-line bazooka type, but in small quantities as an experiment. Production unknown.
  - Rifle ammunition produced by 14 machines with a capacity of 60 bullets a minute each.
  - Heavy machine gun ammunition; made by six machines at 60 rounds a minute.
  - Ammunition for 37-mm. AA machine guns made by five automatic machines with a rate of 35 bullets a minute.
  - Ammunition for 7.65 and 9-mm. submachine guns made by 25 machines, each with a capacity of 60 rounds a minute.
  - Various types of mortar shells; approximately 30,000 weekly.
  - 120-mm. mortar shells made by 15 machines with an individual capacity of 450 rounds on each work shift.
6. Each weapon is tested by firing three times, at a distance ranging from 100 to 400 meters. The mechanism is tested by two or three firings, loading three times. Characteristics are proved by 20 single shots; 20 rounds in a single burst; 20 rounds in several short bursts. The rate of fire for automatic weapons must be at least 550 rounds a minute. Following the tests, corrections are made for training and sighting, and the necessary annotations are made. In proving the automatic weapons, at least 15 out of 20 rounds must fall within a circle of 15 cm. diameter, at a range of 100 meters. The barrels are made for 28,000 to 31,000 rounds. Deficiencies in all the weapons manufactured here are essentially traceable to the poor quality of the barrels, especially the muzzles.
7. The finished product is accepted by the mission from the Military Technical Institute (Vojensky technicky ustav - VTU) and shipped by rail to various military depots. Approximately 40 percent of the production goes to the USSR and the Satellites; the material is packaged in small cases which are bound with one-centimeter steel bands. Weapons which are destined for Czech military depots are not put into cases but are loaded on railroad cars and covered with canvas.
8. Electricity is the main type of power used in the factory. It comes from the Povasska Bystrica hydroelectric station through three transformers at the factory. All the machines in the factory are electrically powered with individual motors, and a minimum of power is transmitted by belts which are moved by a single electric motor of 300 HP. Coal and coke come from Moravska Ostrava. Steam is produced at a boiler house; but only a few machines are steam-powered and steam is used mainly for heating. Fuel oil and gasoline come from the Apollo Refinery in Bratislava. Three railroad tank cars arrive daily. Semifinished products, steel, and cast iron come from the Vitkovice and OKD iron and steel mills (sic). The reserves of semifinished products and steel suffice for three months.
1.   Comments: The reference is presumably to the Vah Machinery Works (Povasske strojarne), which lists a Klement Gottwald Factory under the name of its Workers' Training Center (Stredisko pracovnuseho dorastu) in the 1953-54 telephone directory for the Zilina district.

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